Call for Papers: AAG 2016, San Francisco (29 March – 2 April 2016)

The Globalisation of Local Real Estate: New Geographies of Foreign Investment in Residential Real Estate

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Scholarship on the relational geographies of foreign investment is reframing discussions about foreign real estate investment. Recent studies have exposed the changing global capital flows through several countries around the world, with significant changes in North America, Western Europe, Africa and Asia. These scholars are exposing the new foreign investment geographies in global cities such as London, Tokyo, New York, Toronto and Sydney. The new global capital flows and urban geographies are bolstered by new and old middle class and superrich capital, and accompanied by new and not so new urban and cultural politics. The well-reported rise in Chinese investment in global real estate and the role that Asian investors are playing in Anglo-sphere real estate markets is emerging as a key site for critical housing scholarship.

The increasing activity of the new middle class and superrich investors from Brazil, Russia, India, Indonesia, China, and South Africa (known collectively as the BRIICS) and the Four ‘Asian Tiger’ countries (Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan) in global real estate markets have introduced new and revived some existing economic, cultural and political sensitivities. The economic systems, housing policies, home ownership rules and taxation settings within the BRIICS are reportedly ‘pushing’ BRIICS investors away from domestic investment, leading them to look for investment opportunities overseas. Equally, the housing, foreign investment visa, economic and educational landscapes of several Anglo-sphere countries are reportedly ‘pulling’ new middle class and superrich investors and capital into housing investment in these countries.

Collectively, these so-called push and pull factors are shaping global real estate investment; yet they remain poorly understood by scholars. Pressing questions include the intersection of globally mobile middle class and superrich capital into gateway cities, its relationship to local housing affordability and social equity, claims of tax evasion and money-laundering, and the role of immigration and education in enabling foreign real estate investment.

This session on the changing geographies of foreign investment in residential real estate will consider the politics of international residential real estate, the geographies of foreign capital flows, the relational geographies of foreign real estate investors, the role of international real estate professionals and the impacts of the globalisation of local real estate on and in cities.

We are seeking papers for this session on topics such as, but not limited to:

- The new geographies of foreign investment in residential real estate
- The economic, cultural and housing politics of new middle class and superrich capital, and its relationships to local housing affordability and social equity (e.g., tax evasion, money-laundering)
- The flows and patterns of foreign capital into gateway cities
- The temporal and/or spatial implications of foreign real estate capital in cities (e.g., urban planning, housing provision, education institutions, immigration)
- Changing international real estate relations and globalizing real estate practices (e.g., the role of the global real estate industry)
- The global mobility, networks and ‘flows’ of foreign real estate investors and new middle class and superrich capital
- Foreign investment transnational and translocal factors (e.g. intersections between the home and host countries housing and education policies, economic systems, visa and migration practices and political conditions)
- The lived experiences of various actors in these processes (e.g. foreign real estate investors, global real estate intermediaries, local residents)
- Methodological considerations in researching these issues

Paper Submissions:
Please email abstracts of no more than 300 words to Dallas Rogers (d.rogers@uws.edu.au) by Friday 2nd October 2015. Successful submissions will be contacted by 9th October 2015 and will be expected to pay the registration fee and submit their abstracts online at the AAG website by October 29th 2015.